



18th October 2023

REMINDER: SCHOOL CLOSURE

The school will close on **Friday 27th October @ 11am** for midterm break. The children can wear fancy dress/non uniform to school on this day.

The school will remain closed from **Monday 30th October until Thursday 2nd November**. We wish everyone an enjoyable and safe break! School reopens on Friday 3rd November.

CONGRATULATIONS – BLUE AND WHITE DAY

On behalf of everyone in the school, we send a huge congratulations to An Mhaigh Senior Football Team who qualified for the Intermediate Championship Final and to the Under 18 boys who won the Grade 3 Championship in Healy Park. Well done to everyone involved!!

The excitement in anticipation of the final has started in school and to celebrate this special occasion we will host a ‘**Blue and White**’ day on **Tuesday 24th October**. ‘We are Tyrone’ are visiting the school on this day to report on the club’s success and how the children are feeling about the final!

Please note: we do not expect parents to purchase new clothes for this day but just wearing a little bit of blue and white will do!



FIRST FRIDAY MASS

The whole school will attend first Friday Mass @ 10am in St John’s Church on **Friday 3rd November**. The P5 class are preparing the Mass this month.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP – KEEP THE DATE FREE

Annual General Meeting – **Monday 13th November** (more details to follow)
All new members welcome!

PRIMARY 5 – GO GAMES

The P5 class will travel to Brackaville GAA on **Friday 20th October** to participate in Go Games organised by the Tyrone GAA. The children will return to school in time for lunch.

CHRISTMAS DATES

The provisional dates for Christmas are:

Wednesday 6th December @ 11am in the school hall	P1& P2 Christmas Play
Tuesday 19th December @ 7pm in St. John’s Church	P3-P7 - A Christmas Pageant

SACRAMENT DATES – HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

- **Confirmation:** **Friday 22nd March 2024 @ 5pm** in St. Jarlath's Church, Blackwatertown.
- **First Holy Communion:** **Saturday 27th April 2024 @ 11am** in St. John's Church, Moy.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

- **Designated Teacher for Child Protection – Mrs McKnight**
- **Deputy Designated Teacher for Child protection – Mrs Hughes**



Please refer to the summary of the school's Child Protection Policy below. This document is also available under the PARENTS' tab of the school's website. A paper copy will be sent home this week to the P1 parents/guardians along with some other key safeguarding documents.

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy - Summary

A Guide for Parents



The full policy document is available on request from the school office or on the school's website

Aims

St. John's Primary School aims to establish a caring environment within which the academic, personal, social and spiritual potential of each child will be developed. The pastoral care dimension permeates all school activities.

We have primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge and we will carry out this duty through our Pastoral Care Policy which aims to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment.

Principles

Our Child Protection Policy is based on the following principles:

- The child's welfare must always be paramount.
- Children must always have a right to be heard, to be listened to and to be taken seriously.
- Parents/carers have a right to respect but a proper balance must be struck between ensuring this and protecting children.
- Every child has the fundamental right to be safe from harm and have proper care given to their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

School Safeguarding Team

- The Chair of the Board of Governors: **Dean Kevin Donaghy**
- The Designated Governor for Child Protection: **Mrs M Donaghy**
- The School Principal: **Mrs L McKnight**
- The Designated Teacher for Child Protection: **Mrs L McKnight**
- The Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection: **Mrs B Hughes**

Members of the team have clear roles and responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding of pupils within the school and these are detailed in our full Child Protection Policy.

In order to protect our pupils at St. John's we will adhere to the following procedures:

- All staff teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers will have clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect is suspected.
- All staff and volunteers will undergo vetting procedures in order to maintain the highest standard of professional care towards our children.
- All teaching and non-teaching staff will attend a Child Protection training programme organised by the Designated Teacher.
- Children will be supervised at all times while in the school grounds.
- All visitors to the school must report to the secretary's office.

Conduct of Staff

The conduct of staff towards the children must be above approach at all times. In safeguarding the welfare of the children, the staff must never abuse their position of trust. Staff should be alert to any suspicion of physical or sexual abuse. They should also be aware of the negative aspect of emotional abuse in the form of persistent sarcasm or verbal bullying. Members of staff should ensure that their conduct with the children could never be perceived or alleged as abusive.

Staff Training

Both teaching and ancillary staff have been trained by the Designated Teacher (Mrs McKnight) and this training will be updated biannually. The subject will also be addressed in the induction of newly appointed staff, both teaching and non-teaching.

Child Abuse

Child Abuse may take a number of forms, including:

Neglect: is the failure to provide for a child's basic needs, whether it be adequate food, clothing, hygiene, supervision or shelter that is likely to result in the serious impairment of a child's health or development. Children who are neglected often also suffer from other types of abuse.

Physical Abuse: is deliberately physically hurting a child. It might take a variety of different forms, including hitting, biting, pinching, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating a child.

Emotional Abuse: is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child. It is also sometimes called psychological abuse and it can have severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development. Emotional abuse may involve deliberately telling a child that they are worthless, or unloved and inadequate. It may include not giving a child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them, or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. Emotional abuse may involve bullying –including online bullying through social networks, online games or mobile phones – by a child's peers.

Sexual Abuse: occurs when others use and exploit children sexually for their own gratification or gain or the gratification of others. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape, or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via e-technology). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Exploitation: is the intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child or young person; to take selfish or unfair advantage of a child or young person or situation, for personal gain. It may manifest itself in many forms such as child labour, slavery, servitude, and engagement in criminal activity, begging, benefit or other financial fraud or child trafficking. It extends to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation can be sexual in nature.

All the above definitions are from 'DE's Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools – A Guide for Schools' (June 2022)

Operation Encompass

Our school is part of Operation Encompass which is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and police forces. Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced domestic abuse. This allows schools to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to support the child/ren in our care.

Mrs McKnight and Mrs Hughes have been trained in the Operation Encompass procedures. They Key adult for Saint John's is Mrs McKnight.



**OPERATION
ENCOMPASS**
In every force. In every school. For every child.

Summary of Procedures

All staff at St. John's P.S. will ensure that all children are aware of who they can talk to if they are sad, worried, being bullied or have any other concerns. Any member of staff who knows or suspects about any form of abuse has a duty to convey his/her concern to the Designated Teacher or Principal. Where non-teaching staff are alerted to the possibility of abuse, they should inform the class teacher immediately.

The Designated Teacher, **Mrs McKnight**, shall be the person with special responsibility for dealing with cases of suspected child abuse and in her absence the, Deputy Designated Teacher, **Mrs Hughes**.

The following diagram shows the procedures we are required to follow and is based upon the procedure described in *DE's 'Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools.'* June 2022.

Disclosures/Concerns Regarding Abuse or Neglect

Member of staff completes the Note of Concern on what has been observed or shared and must ACT PROMPTLY.



St. John's Designated Teacher or Deputy Designated Teacher



Principal informed and consulted or other relevant staff before deciding upon action to be taken, always taking care to avoid undue delay. If required advice may be sought from a CPSS officer.

Child Protection referral is required

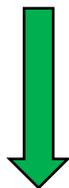
Designated Teacher seeks consent of parent/carer and/or child (if they are competent to give this) unless this would place the child at risk of significant harm then telephones the Children's Services Gateway Team and/or the PSNI if a child is at immediate risk. He/she submits a completed UNOCINI referral form within 24 hours.



Designated Teacher clarifies/discusses concern with child/parent carers and decides if a child protection referral is or is not required.

Child Protection referral is not required

School may consider other options including monitoring the situation within an agreed timescale; signposting or referring the child/parent/cares to appropriate support services such Children's Services Gateway Team or local Family Support Hub with parental consent, and child/young person's consent (where appropriate).



Where appropriate the source of concern will be informed as to the action taken. The Designated Teacher will maintain a written record of all decision and actions taken and ensure that this record is appropriately and securely stored.

It should be noted that information given to a member of staff about possible child abuse cannot be held in confidence. In the interest of the child, staff will need to share this information with other professions. However, only those who need to know will be told.

Allegations against Staff

Any complaints made that a member of staff has abused a pupil will be thoroughly investigated using the appropriate Child Protection Procedures. Advice will immediately be sought from the Education Authority Southern Region Designated Child Protection Officer, and Social Services. Preliminary enquiries will be carried out. These enquiries will have regard to the welfare of the child concerned and of the other children in the school, to the efficient functioning of the school and to the right of the individual against whom the complaint was made.

How a Parent can Share/Raise a Safeguarding Concern

If you have any concerns about your child's safety you should use the following procedures to make a complaint:

I have a concern about my/a child's safety.



I can talk to the class teacher.



If I am still concerned I can talk to the Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection or the Principal



If I am still concerned I can talk/write to the Chair Person of the Board of Governors.



At any time I can talk to the local Children's Services Gateway Team or the PSNI Central Referral Unit at

cru@psni.police.uk



If I am still concerned I can contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman Tel: 0800 343 424.

St. John's Primary School is committed to the provision of a high-quality education for all pupils and high standards to all whom it serves. We believe that the fostering of trust and good relationships with the parents/carers of our pupils is important. A close partnership between home and school should help ensure that all our children learn and develop to their full potential in a caring, supportive and safe environment. Good communication is essential if we are to achieve this.

It is important that parents/carers understand that they are required to inform the school if:

- their child has a medical condition or educational need.
- there are any Court Orders relating to the safety or well-being of a parent or child.
- there is any change in a child's circumstances for e.g. change of address, contact details, name, parental responsibility.
- there are any changes to arrangements about who brings their child to and from school.
- their child is absent from school and send in a note on the child's return to school.
- All visitors to the school must report to the main entrance/secretary's office.